

Legislative Reference Service

WEEK ENDING 1-21-00

NO. 1

CODE ENFORCEMENT

H-6812 SERVICE OF PROCESS (Faria) This act would require landlords residing outside Rhode Island to designate an agent for services of process. Judiciary

S-2078 CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION (Celona & Others) This act would require that carbon monoxide detectors be installed in all buildings hereinafter constructed or converted for residential occupancy as well as existing residential dwellings prior to the transfer or sale of such property. Corporations

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

H-6711 HEARING, SPEECH AND VISION EXAMINATIONS (George & Others) This act would require that all school children, prior to first grade, shall be given an eye examination by a physician or optometrist. Finance

H-6729 TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE (Barr II) This act would require that teachers and non-unionized state employees be eligible to receive temporary disability insurance. Labor

H-6744 GAMBLING NEAR SCHOOLS (Fleury & Kelley) This act would prohibit gambling activities within 1 mile of a school with certain exceptions. Judiciary

H-6764 TEACHERS' AIDES (Abdullah-Odiase & Others) This act would provide funds to support the professional development of teachers' aides and paraprofessionals. Finance

H-6765 READING MATERIALS (Abdullah-Odiase & Others) This act would provide funds to ensure that there are enough reading materials available in public school classrooms, community centers, school libraries and child care facilities. Finance

H-6767 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE (Abdullah-Odiase & Others) This act would mandate every 4 and 5 year old will attend full day kindergarten and that this state funded and controlled program will focus on mathematics, reading and writing readiness. Finance

H-6768 LITERACY PROGRAM (Abdullah-Odiase & Others) This act would provide funds for quality preschool and full day kindergarten programs that foster early literacy by developing children's language, vocabulary and conceptual skills, as well as helping to familiarize all students with books, the nature of print and the letters of the alphabet and their sounds. Finance

H-6772 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES (Hogan & McNamara) This act would clarify the provisions of the general laws pertaining to public school fundraising activities by specifically permitting the sale of school lunches pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by city and town committees. H.E.W.

H-6774 CRIMINAL RECORDS REVIEW (McNamara & Others) This act would require a national criminal records check for any person seeking employment with a public school department. H.E.W.

H-6779 LITERACY PROGRAM (Abdullah-Odiase & Others) This act would require the establishment of family literacy programs to assist caregivers in fostering literacy in their children. Finance

H-6780 DIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (Abdullah-Odiase & Others) This act would create curricula in the public schools which would promote diversity. H.E.W.

H-6781 SCRUNGE AND DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT (Abdullah-Odiase & Others) This act would require the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education to provide each school district with financial resources sufficient to employ periodic research based scrounge and diagnostic assessments for students beginning at the kindergarten level which shall ensure the early discovery of reading problems. Finance

H-6791 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES (Palumbo & Others) This act would allow city and town councils to promulgate rules and regulations regarding fundraising activities by public schools and would further allow municipalities to permit such activities. H.E.W.

H-6798 KINDERGARTEN (Moura & Others) This act would require school committees to make available to kindergartners, eligible for free or reduced lunches, the right to attend full-day sessions of at least six (6) hours. This act would also require the General Assembly to appropriate to school districts 100% of the costs associated with

providing a one-half (½) day session for all students eligible for free or reduced lunch who participate in the full-day programs. Finance

H-6847 HEARING, SPEECH AND VISUAL SCREENING (Corvese & Others) This act would amend the provisions of the general laws pertaining to the health and safety of pupils by substituting the word "screenings" for the word "examinations" relating to the statewide hearing screening and conservation program. H.E.W.

H-6857 NURSERY SCHOOLS (McNamara & Others) This act would require vehicles used by nursery schools, camps, day nurseries or day care centers to be equipped with seat belts. Highway Safety

H-6858 SCHOOL BUSES (McNamara & Others) This act would prohibit and make it a misdemeanor for any person who enters a school bus with the intent to commit a crime, interferes with the driver, or refuses to disembark at the request of the driver. Highway Safety

H-6875 TOBACCO REPARATIONS ALLOCATION ACT (Maher & G. Levesque) This act would set aside 15% of the tobacco settlement funds for the school departments of cities and towns to be based upon the percentage share of state income tax paid by the residents. Finance

H-6892 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED (McNamara & Hogan) This act would prohibit the solicitation of retail credit applications from public school students as well as permit the solicitation of said students for fundraising activities approved by the superintendent of schools as well as the school building principal. H..E.W.

H-6893 INTERNET ACCESS (McNamara & Others) This act would permit the display of televised commercial advertising necessarily incidental to internet access. H.E.W.

H-6897 ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS (McNamara & Hogan) This act would prohibit the advertising of alcohol and tobacco products within one mile of any school. Judiciary

H-6905 REPORT OF FELONY (Kilmartin) This act would require that school superintendents receive notification of any student who has been convicted of a felony. Judiciary

H-6927 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES (Picard) This act would allow city/town school committees to promulgate rules and regulations permitting fundraising activities by public schools. The written consent of a parent or guardian would be required for any student to participate in any such fundraising activity. H.E.W.

H-6935 PRIVATE SCHOOLS (Picard) This act would permit students who attend a private school to participate as a member of a public school team if their private school does not field a team in that sport. H.E.W.

S-2001 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED (Patterson) This act would repeal the prohibition against commercial activities by teachers in public schools. H.E.W.

S-2009 RHODE ISLAND CONSTITUTION (Issa & Others) This act would require public schools to begin each school day with the Preamble of the State Constitution. H.E.W.

S-2020 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Connors & Others) This act would require school bus drivers to be fingerprinted. H.E.W.

S-2031 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES (Fogarty & Others) This act would amend the provision of the general laws pertaining to fundraising activities in public school by expressly prohibiting only commercial activities, thereby permitting other non-commercial fundraising activities. H.E.W.

S-2032 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED (Fogarty & Others) This act would repeal the provision of the general laws which prohibits persons from distributing through or in the public schools or to children on their way to or from school any circular, sample, package, coupon, ticket or other similar advertising matter. H.E.W.

S-2036 CRIMINAL RECORDS REVIEW (McCaffrey & Others) This act would require a national background check (BCI) for any person seeking employment in a public school department. It would further require fingerprinting and shorten the time period from 18 months to 12 months prior to application. H.E.W.

S-2047 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES (Patterson & Others) This act would remove the ban on fundraising in schools. H.E.W.

S-2048 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED (Gallo & Others) This act would prohibit the solicitation of retail credit applications from public school students as well as permit the solicitation of said students for fundraising activities approved by the superintendent of schools as well as the school building principal. H.E.W.

S-2132 TEACHER ASSISTANTS (Gallo & Others) This act would require teacher assistants to be certified if they substitute more than 20 times during the school year. H.E.W.

S-2133 COMPUTER PROFICIENCY TEST (Sasso & Others) This act would require that prospective teachers pass a computer proficiency examination as a prerequisite to certification. H.E.W.

S-2138 SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PROGRAM (Gallo & Others) This act would provide a tax credit for companies participating in the School-to-Career Program. Finance

ELECTIONS

S-2117 MUNICIPAL ELECTIVE OFFICE (Paiva Weed & Cicilline) A city or town may by charter or ordinance permit municipal employees to hold municipal elective office in that city or town. Judiciary

ENVIRONMENT

H-6734 WATER QUALITY PROTECTION CHARGE (McNamara & Knickle) This act would extend the exemption from the water quality protection charge to those persons age 65 years of age or over who own and occupy condominiums. Finance

H-6738 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE FUND (S. Anderson & Montanaro) This act makes funds available for training state and local personnel in environmental hazard control. Finance

H-6925 HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL PERMITS (Inman, III) This act grants to all cities and towns throughout the State the authority to issue permits to persons, businesses, corporations, partnerships and limited partnerships who are engaged in the manufacture of hazardous chemicals. Corporations

FINANCE AND TAXATION

H-6706 PAYMENT IN LIEU – STATE PARKS (Barr, II) This act would provide for an appropriation to cities and towns with state parks located therein to reimburse them for the cost of services provided. Finance

H-6708 STATE AID – RESIDENCY (Barr, II) This act would penalize any municipality that has a residency rule by withholding 50% of general state aid and education aid in 2000, and 100% of such aid in 2001. Finance

H-6788 LIENS ON TANGIBLE PROPERTY (Russo, Jr.) This act would allow any municipality to have a lien on motor vehicles when any personal property tax due is not paid within the time limited by law. This act would also require the collector of taxes, upon written application, to furnish the applicant, within five business days, a certificate of all

taxes and other assessments which at the time constitute liens on the tangible property specified in the application. Judiciary

H-6809 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (Giannini & Others) This act would permit municipalities to collect payments and/or services in lieu of taxes from certain nonprofit organizations. Corporations

H-6845 STATE AID TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (Carroll & Others) This act would require the State to annually pay for the tuition and related costs for students attending a state elementary or secondary vocational education school. The payments would be made directly to the respective schools. Finance

H-6851 SCHOOL AID (Corvese & Others) This act would require the State to provide aid to the several cities and towns for the cost of education on a graduated basis. Finance

H-6862 TARGETED SCHOOL AID (Corvese & Others) This act changes the district requirements for eligibility for targeted school aid. Finance

H-6873 PAYMENT IN LIEU – FROM 27% TO 40% (Pisaturo & Others)) This act would increase the appropriation from the general assembly to the cities and towns in lieu of property tax from certain exempt private and state properties to 40% from 27%. Finance

H-6878 TAX EXEMPTION FORM – BUSINESS (Pisaturo) This act would require annual written certification from any business claiming a property tax exemption pursuant to Rhode Island General Law sections 44-3-3, 44-3-3.1, 44-3-6, 44-3-8, 44-3-9, 44-3-9.1, 44-3-9.2, 44-3-9.3, 44-3-10, 44-3-11 and 44-3-14 on a form promulgated by the Department of Business Regulation. The annual written certification shall include a description and the location of the property claimed as exempt. Corporations

H-6884 SCHOOL AID – 5% INCREASE (Carroll & Others) This act would provide for an annual minimum 5% increase in State Aid to Education. Judiciary

H-6909 WHOLESALERS' AND RETAILERS' INVENTORY (Cicilline) This act would exempt retailers' and wholesalers' inventory from local taxation. Corporations

S-2050 RESOURCE RECOVERY (Tocco & Igliozi) This act would require the Resource Recovery Corporation to turn over any surplus realized in any given year to the host community of each landfill. Finance

S-2052 PAYMENT IN LIEU – RESOURCE RECOVERY (Tocco & Igliozi) This act would provide for an appropriation to cities and towns with property of the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation located therein to reimburse them for the cost of services provided. Finance

S-2059 SCHOOL AID – DEADLINE (Walaska & Others) This act would set a deadline for the appropriation of state aid to education for the various cities and towns. Finance

S-2061 CABLE COMPANY TAX (Walaska & Others) This act would authorize towns and cities to impose a tax upon cable companies not to exceed 5% of the gross revenue of the cable company in the town or city. Not less than 51% of the taxes received would be used to improve and expand public access television and to provide computers to schools. Corporations

S-2077 STATE AID TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (Walsh & Others) This act would require the State to annually pay for the tuition and related costs for students attending a state elementary and secondary vocational education school. The payments would be made directly to the respective schools. Finance

S-2081 SCHOOL AID – TIMETABLE (Connors & Others) This act would require a specific timetable for the annual determination of the amount of state aid to municipalities for educational purposes. Finance

S-2083 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Oster) This act would include all state owned property in the program which provides for general assembly appropriations in lieu of property taxes ("The Pilot Program"). Finance

S-2084 PAYMENT IN LIEU – PARKS, BEACHES AND COLLEGES (Oster) This act would appropriate funds to cities and towns for parks, beaches and colleges and universities in the sum of 27% of the amount the exempt property would have paid in taxes. Finance

S-2085 PAYMENT IN LIEU – STATE PARKS (Oster) This act would provide for an appropriation to cities and towns with state parks located therein to reimburse them for the cost of services provided. Finance

S-2087 SCHOOL AID – 5% INCREASE (Fogarty & Others) This act would provide for an annual minimum 5% increase in state aid to education. Finance

S-2088 STATE AID TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (Fogarty & Others) This act would require the State to annually pay for the tuition and related costs for students attending a state elementary or secondary vocational education school. The payments would be made directly to the respective schools. Finance

S-2101 SUPERFUND TAX RELIEF ACT (Celona & Others) This act would establish the Rhode Island Superfund Tax Relief Act to provide tax relief to property owners within a federally designated superfund site, and makes an appropriation of \$100,000 for such purpose. Finance

S-2104 PAYMENT IN LIEU (McDonald & Others) This act would appropriate funds to cities and towns for parks, beaches and colleges and universities in the sum of 27% of the amount the exempt property would have paid in taxes. Finance

S-2105 PAYMENT IN LIEU – STATE OWNED PROPERTY (McDonald & Sosnowski) This act would include all state owned property in the program which provides for general assembly appropriations in lieu of property taxes (“The Pilot Program”). Finance

S-2106 PAYMENT IN LIEU – STATE PARKS (McDonald & Others) This act would provide for an appropriation to cities and towns with state parks located therein to reimburse them for the cost of services provided. Finance

S-2123 LOTTERY AID TO EDUCATION FUND (Oster) This act would require the State Lottery Commission to pay its revenue into a segregated account to fund education. Finance

LABOR RELATIONS

H-6934 SCHOOL TEACHER DISPUTES (S. Anderson) This act would require the bargaining agent for teachers, non-teacher employees and a school committee to submit their last best offer as to salary to arbitration, and would require the selection of one offer or the other, which choice and decision would be binding on the parties. Labor

PLANNING AND ZONING

S-2058 ZONING ORDINANCES (Walaska & Others) This act would require abutters to be notified of any appeals to a zoning board of review or to the superior court, with the cost of said notice to be borne by the appellant or aggrieved party. Judiciary

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE

H-6703 COMMISSION ON FIRE SAFETY ISSUES (Lowe & Others) This act would establish a fire safety issues commission to study and investigate fire safety and related issues in this state. Placed on Calendar

H-6704 COMMISSION ON FIRE SAFETY ISSUES (Lowe & Others) This act would establish a fire safety issues commission to study and investigate fire safety and related issues in this state. Placed on Calendar

H-6726 DESECRATION OF GRAVE (Barr & Coderre) This act would make acts of vandalism to cemeteries and graveyards a felony punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and a minimum fine of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). This act would provide that fines be applied to repair the act of vandalism, with any surplus to be applied to acts of vandalism within the same cemetery and then to other cemeteries within the same municipality as the original offense. Judiciary

H-6727 TELEPHONE SALES SOLICITATION (George & Henseler) This act would provide specific monetary sanctions and make it a misdemeanor for a telephone solicitor to make an unsolicited telephone sales call to a police or fire department emergency telephone number, and/or to a 911 emergency number. Judiciary

H-6783 BULLETPROOF VESTS (Russo & Others) This act would make unlawful the sale to or possession of a bulletproof vest by anyone, other than law enforcement personnel, who does not possess a valid hunting license and/or does not register with local police. Judiciary

H-6811 MUNICIPAL DETENTION FACILITIES (Faria) This act would subject prisoners in municipal detention facilities to the same punishment as those in the ACI for escape, assault or rioting. Judiciary

H-6814 SUSPENSIONS (Moura & Palumbo) This act enables appeals of disciplinary actions to be subject to grievance procedures on whether or not there was just cause for the disciplinary action. Judiciary

H-6824 FOSTER PARENTS (Giannini & Others) This act would require foster parents to be subject to nationwide criminal background checks. Judiciary

H-6836 WEAPONS (Corvese & Others) This act would provide for the reissuance of a license or permit to carry a concealed weapon to a person whose license or permit has lapsed. Judiciary

H-6852 NFPA 1500 (Palumbo & Others) This act would impose a fine for failure to comply with the requirement that fire departments implement NFPA 1500. Corporations

H-6864 COLLISION WITH DWELLING OR BUILDING (Sullivan & Others) This act would require operators of a motor vehicle who are involved in a collision with an occupied dwelling or building, where damage results therefrom, to give notice to the owner of said building or dwelling, and to file a report to the local police or state police. Highway Safety

H-6936 DISPOSITION OF JUVENILE RECORDS (Picard) This act would provide that the identity of any juvenile between the ages of 15 and 18 who has been found delinquent because of certain offenses on 2 or more occasions shall be made public. Judiciary

S-2037 NOTARIES PUBLIC (Blais & Others) This act would permit police officers to have notarial powers and exempt them from payment of the commission fee as provided in Section 42-30-5. Judiciary

S-2038 CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK (Blais & Others) This act would require the Bureau of Criminal Identification to pay for all costs of criminal background checks required for day care workers. H.E.W.

RETIREMENT

H-6817 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Faria) This act would require a retired teacher to receive additional benefits if that teacher's income is not at least equal to the federal poverty level. Finance

H-6869 VESTING – NUMBER OF YEARS (Faria & Others) This act would reduce the number of years required for vesting in the State Retirement System from 10 to 5 years. Finance

TOWN AND CITY CLERKS

H-6746 ADOPTION RECORDS (Barr, II) This act allows adult adoptees to inspect and/or copy records of their adoption. Judiciary

MISCELLANEOUS

H-6740 GAMBLING PROMOTERS (Fleury & Kelley) This act would require a gambling promoter to file a financial disclosure statement with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, and increase the number of days within which a town/city may place a resolution on the ballot from 150 days to 210 days. Finance

H-6813 PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS (Moura & Faria) This act would provide for contractor qualifications relative to public works projects. Labor

H-6890 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (Sullivan & Others) This act would prohibit the erection of telecommunications towers in playgrounds. Corporations

H-6911 CAUSES OF ACTION (Cicilline) This act would provide a cause of action for violations of the Rhode Island Constitution. Judiciary

H-6940 CODE OF ETHICS (Inman, III) This act prohibits elected municipal officials from taking employment in their municipality for a period of one year after leaving office. This prohibition extends to municipal agencies and boards. Finance

H-6942 CANCER CONTROL (Giannini & Others) A joint resolution urging cities and towns to create municipal cancer control task forces. H.E.W.

S-2025 WRONGFUL CONVERSION (Patterson) This act would amend the criminal conversion statute to include embezzlement or conversion of services which come into the possession or control of any employee in the employ of the State of Rhode Island, any department, agency, political subdivision or any city/town. Judiciary

S-2079 CODE OF ETHICS (Paiva Weed & Others) This act would reduce the number of persons who are required to file financial statements with the Ethics Commission. Judiciary

S-2086 TOWN HIGHWAYS (Oster) This act would require the State to construct and maintain sidewalks on state highways, causeways and bridges. Finance